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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 5

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

Note by the Secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The INCD considered this item at its seventh and eighth session on the basis of documents A/AC.241/36 and A/AC.241/46. In its decision 8/3, adopted at its eighth session, the Committee requested the interim secretariat to "submit for consideration at the last session of the Committee prior to the first session of the Conference of the Parties a draft programme of work of the Conference of the Parties and the budget estimates of the Convention for the first financial period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties, using as a basis document A/AC.241/46 and taking into account the views on this question expressed by delegations at the eighth session of the Committee, as well as consideration by the Committee of financial rules and of the designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its financing."

2. In the meantime, the Second Committee of the General Assembly has on 3 December 1996 adopted a draft resolution, which at the time of submission of this report had not yet been considered by Plenary, which would request the Secretary-General, subject to the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, to consider:

(a) authorizing the secretariat established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 to act as secretariat for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the permanent secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should not be later than 31 December 1998; and

(b) maintaining the arrangements within the current programme budget for the interim secretariat to support the Convention beyond the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the Permanent Secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should not be later than 31 December 1998, and maintaining the arrangements relating to extrabudgetary funds.

3. In the light of the texts quoted above, this document contains preliminary proposals regarding the programme of work for the biennium 1998/1999 of the Conference of the Parties (COP), its subsidiary bodies, and the Permanent Secretariat; the related organization and staffing of the Permanent Secretariat and ensuing activities. As regards 1998, it is assumed that current arrangements would continue, deriving from the General Assembly resolution referred to in paragraph 2 above, whereby the interim secretariat would continue to be financed from the regular programme of the United Nations,supplemented by voluntary contributions. Thus, any build-up in 1998 towards the level of activity, and of staffing, envisaged in this document for 1999 would need to be financed from the Trust Fund established pursuant to resolution 47/188 of the General Assembly.

4. The main purpose of this document is to generate further guidance from the INCD to help shape the secretariat's final budget proposals to be submitted first to a further session of the INCD, if it takes place, or directly to the first COP. Projections are necessarily preliminary at this stage because they are being prepared far in advance of the period they cover. This means that, particularly with regard to 1999, a number of important questions, related both to expenditure and to possible sources of income, cannot yet be answered.

5. It is assumed that the question of the relocation of the secretariat, and of the ensuing cost differentials, will be taken up by the first COP at its first session as an item separate from the consideration of the programme of work.

II. MAIN ISSUES

6. Under article 22 of the Convention, the COP shall approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and undertake the necessary arrangements for their financing. Under article 23, the first COP

shall designate a Permanent Secretariat and make arrangements for its functioning. The functions of the Permanent Secretariat are set out also in article 23; a role for the Secretariat is furthermore assigned in the Regional Implementation Annexes for Africa (article 18.4), Asia (article 8.3) and Latin America and the Caribbean (article 7.2). A main issue, therefore, is to translate these provisions into a programme of work for the biennium immediately following the first COP, that is for 1998/1999.

7. Once that is done, a second important issue is to identify the possible sources of finance for the implementation of that programme of work. At present, the programme of work related to the Convention, including the activities of the interim secretariat, is funded in part by the regular budget of the United Nations, and in part from voluntary contributions. As is clear from paragraphs 2-3 above, these arrangements would continue throughout 1998. The presentation in this document assumes that, as from 1 January 1999, the COP and the Permanent Secretariat will be financed in part by a "core" budget, set at a fairly predictable level and which would cover essential long-term operations, and in part by other contributions provided as special-purpose funds, namely a Supplementary Fund and a Special Fund as defined respectively in rules 9 and 10 of the draft financial rules.

III. THE TRANSITION FROM THE INTERIM TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT: REQUIREMENTS IN 1998

8. The main function of the interim secretariat has been to support the intergovernmental negotiating process. While this function will continue, the coming into force of the Convention will require the secretariat to provide a stronger substantive support to the Convention process. Thus, the Permanent Secretariat will be called upon to support the emerging work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). This will include provision of necessary support to the preparation and maintenance of a roster of experts; it will also require substantive support to such ad hoc panels as may be established. The Permanent Secretariat will also need to maintain a linkage with the Organization housing the global mechanism.

9. As required by article 23.2(c) of the Convention, the Permanent Secretariat will need to assist developing Parties, on request, particularly those in Africa, in the preparation of their national communications. On receipt of those communications, a careful process of analysis and synthesis will be required in order to facilitate their consideration by the COP. It is also reasonable to assume that the Permanent Secretariat increasingly will be called upon to facilitate coordination processes as set out in the relevant regional implementation annexes, by providing relevant information; by facilitating the convening of consultative and coordination processes; and by encouraging the active involvement of relevant bilateral and multilateral agencies concerning coordination meetings aimed at securing agreements on opportunities for international cooperation.

10. On the administrative side, efforts will be required to develop appropriate financial and personnel procedures adapted to the rules, regulations and delegations of authority of the Organization which may be selected to provide overall administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat. There will also be a need to formulate and negotiate an agreement, within the United Nations framework, with the Party which in due course will be identified as host to the Convention Secretariat. The relevant experience of the secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change appears to indicate that these issues will require considerable work over an extended period of time.

11. This interim period, therefore, will require a considerable process of adaptation. This has been recognized by the General Assembly in assuming that the first full year after the first Conference of the Parties, 1988, will be a period

of transition, and that the Permanent Secretariat designated by the COP should begin operating no later than 31 December 1998 (see paragraph 2 above).

12. In these circumstances, the secretariat would envisage 1998 as a year during which the build-up would continue towards the structure and staffing table proposed later in this document for 1999. The extent of that build-up would necessarily depend on the level of resources in the existing Trust Fund. It should be recalled in this regard that, as shown in Appendix F to document A/AC.241/69, there are at present 24 staff members in the interim secretariat, paid from all sources of funds; in document A/AC.249/69/Add.1 it has been suggested that a further three positions would need to be financed in 1997. It would seem appropriate, therefore, to place the 1998 staffing target at some point between this level and that proposed below for 1999.

13. Requirements in 1998, not covered by the regular United Nations budget and therefore possibly needing Trust Fund financing, may also arise under the following three headings:

(a) Financing would be required to operate any ad hoc panels established by the COP pursuant to the recommendations of the CST. Related estimates would depend on the number of such panels, their membership and their geographical composition.

(b) Requirements related to the work of the Global Mechanism could arise to the extent that they are not covered by the host organization still to be identified.

(c) The relocation from Geneva to the country hosting the Convention and its Secretariat will result in expenditure in terms of removal and purchase of office furniture, equipment and supplies, and of travel, removal and installation costs of Secretariat staff. It is possible, of course, that part or all of these costs will be met from host Government contributions, either general in nature or specifically earmarked for this purpose.

IV. THE PROGRAMME FOR THE CONVENTION, AND RELATED REQUIREMENTS IN 1999

A. The core budget

Policy making Organs

The Conference of the Parties

14. Following the outline in Part II of document A/AC.241/46, the second and third sessions of the COP would consider all the standing items listed in paragraph 6 of that document. Review of implementation of the Convention would presumably be taken up at the second session on the basis of oral statements. The second session would also approve revised budget estimates for 1999 taking account of the decision of the first COP on the location of the Permanent Secretariat. At the third session there would be a review of implementation of the Convention in Africa, based on communications from Parties, in accordance with the procedures recommended to the COP by the INCD in INCD decision 9/9. In addition, the third session would not only receive a report from the Global Mechanism but review its policies, operational modalities and activities, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 7, of the Convention.

15. With regard to selected agenda items, it might be appropriate for the second, and, if necessary, the third session of the COP to consider the items in subparagraphs (d), (e), and(f) of paragraph 7 of document A/AC.241/46, that is strengthening of relationships with other conventions, procedures and mechanisms for resolution of implementation questions and adoption of an annex to the Convention on arbitration procedures.

Subsidiary bodies

16. Under article 24 of the Convention, the Committee on Science and Technology shall meet "in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties." In document A/AC.241/66, the secretariat has submitted to the INCD a draft programme of work for the Committee featuring, on the one hand, a phased approach and, on the other, the establishment of priorities. The draft programme of work also suggests that the Committee consider the possibility of establishing three ad hoc panels, respectively in the fields of benchmarks and indicators; of establishing inventories of traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices; and of establishing research priorities.

17. As regards the Global Mechanism, article 21 provides that it shall report to the Conference of the Parties beginning at its second ordinary session. However, as indicated in paragraph 14 above, a full review of the mechanism is scheduled only at the COP's third session. Pending further consideration of the identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism (see INCD decision 9/4), it is too early at this stage to speculate on the precise work programme which may emerge under this heading.

Budgetary requirements

18. In the light of paragraphs 14 to 17 above, estimates could be predicated on the assumption that the COP and its subsidiary bodies would meet for a total of two consecutive weeks in each of the calendar years 1998 and 1999. The allocation of meetings, in each of those periods, between the COP and the CST would need to be decided at a later stage, in the light of the developing programme of work of each organ. Provision therefore would need to be made for a total of two weeks of meetings services for each of the years 1998 and 1999, allowing for two simultaneous meetings at any time during those two weeks, and for the translation, processing and distribution of an estimated 400 pages of documentation each year. The General Assembly is to consider, at its fifty-second session, the inclusion of the 1998 programme of meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies within the regular programme of meetings of the United Nations. It is consequently assumed that budgetary requirements for 1998 will be met by the United Nations regular budget.

The Permanent Secretariat: staffing and other estimates

Proposed organizational structure

19. Paragraphs 8 and 9 above summarize the functions of the Permanent Secretariat as set out in the Convention, including the regional implementation annexes. In addition, the Permanent Secretariat will be called upon to provide necessary support in respect of the functions entrusted to the COP under article 22, paragraph 2 of the Convention, particularly as regards the review of the implementation of the Convention; the promotion of the exchange of information; the periodic review and approval of the programme and budget; the cooperation with competent bodies or agencies, and the promotion of the relationship with other relevant Conventions. The work programme of the Permanent Secretariat will thus be closely tied into, and conditioned by, the programme of work of the COP and of its subsidiary bodies referred to in paragraphs 14 to 17 above.

20. In the light of the above, and of experience gathered over the interim period, the Permanent Secretariat could be organized into the following clusters of activities (numbered references are to articles of the Convention):

(a) Executive direction and management;
(b) Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies (art. 21; art. 23.2 (a));

(c) Provision for information, review of implementation, and facilitation of the consultative and coordination process (art. 23.2(b) and (c); art. 26.1, 26.6 and 26.7; art. 22.2(a) and (b), and relevant provisions for regional implementation annexes);
(d) External relations (art. 23.2(d); art. 22.2(h) and (i));
(e) Administration and systems support (art. 23.2(e), art. 22.2 (g)).

21. In order to facilitate the review and monitoring by the COP of the work programme and budget, and also in the interest of internal management and control, the five clusters identified above should correspond to the "main appropriation lines" in the context of rule 6 of the draft financial rules. Thus, as compared to the suggestions made earlier in document A/AC.241/46, paragraph 11, implementation "review" and implementation "facilitation" would be grouped into one cluster, on the basis that review and facilitation are mutually supportive aspects of the same programme, and that placing both activities in the same organizational unit will permit increased flexibility in work assignments. Furthermore, support to the COP and the CST and liaison with the Global Mechanism also would be grouped together, in order to provide some flexibility in assignments among the small number of staff involved. Documents preparation would be a major activity of the resulting unit, and it would include a lawyer to advise on legal matters, which will result from the variety of national and international instruments with which the Secretariat will be called upon to cooperate, and from the need to prepare and administer a headquarters agreement with the Government of the country hosting the Secretariat. Finally, external relations functions, principally comprising public information, relations with non-governmental organizations and coordination with other relevant secretariats, would constitute a separate cluster.

Executive direction and management

22. The Head of the Permanent Secretariat will provide overall direction and coordination to the Permanent Secretariat, and advice to the COP and its subsidiary bodies. He/she will be accountable directly to the COP for the implementation of its policies and programme of work and for the use of monies contributed by the Parties. The head would be assisted by a Deputy at the D-2 level, and the office would comprise, in addition, a Special Assistant at the P-4 level and 2 General Service posts. It is envisaged that, over the biennium, the need for legal advice will be met, as described in paragraph 25 below, on a part-time basis by an officer in one of the support clusters.

Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies

23. This unit would: (a) provide support to the work programme and sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its ad hoc panels, (b) represent the Secretariat vis-à-vis, and interact with, the organization hosting the Global Mechanism, (c) more generally, provide support to the Conference of the Parties in respect of the latter's functions under article 21 of the Convention, and (d) be responsible for document preparation, and documents control, for the Permanent Secretariat as a whole . Obviously, the unit should provide a strong component of scientific expertise. It is also envisaged that, at least during the biennium, the unit would provide such legal advice as may be required to the Head of the Permanent Secretariat.

24. It is proposed that the unit be headed by an officer at the D-1 level and comprise three other Professional posts (two P-5, one P-4) and one General Service post. Two Professional and the General Service post would provide support to the Committee on Science and Technology, and also such legal advice as may be required, while the remaining Professional post would work on the global mechanism and in support of Conference activities under article 21.

25. As regards 1999, related requirements will also have to include provision for meetings of ad hoc panels since, under paragraph 7 of its terms of reference, the CST is required to include estimates of the financial implications of its work

programme. Those estimates would include the cost of ad hoc panels, and would need to be considered by the COP on the basis of specific submissions by the CST. As indicated in paragraph 13 above, requirements under this heading may also arise in 1998, and would need to be met within existing (regular budget or Trust Fund) resources.

Provision of information, review of implementation, and facilitation of the consultative and coordination processes

26. On the basis of articles 23, paragraph 2(c), and 26, paragraph 7 of the Convention, and as called for by INCD decision 9/9, this unit would

(a) receive and compile the summaries of reports provided by the Parties under article 26 on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention;

(b) prepare,on the basis of the above, syntheses of the reports, setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention; and, starting with the third session of the Conference, prepare a report summarizing the conclusions of the review process;

(c) facilitate assistance, on request, to affected developing countries, particularly affected African country Parties, in compiling and communicating information, and in identifying technical and financial needs associated with action programmes;

(d) facilitate, as provided in the relevant regional implementation annexes, the convocation of consultative processes at the national, subregional and regional levels; and

(e) develop and maintain data bases of focal points related to the above activities.

27. In the light of the pattern of regional implementation ensconced in the Convention, it is proposed that the unit be headed by an officer at the D-1 level, assisted by a General Service staff member, and have four regional components, respectively for Africa (P-5, P-4, P-3, P-2, 2 GS), Asia (P-5, P-3, P-2, 2 GS), Latin America and the Caribbean (P-5, P-3) and the Northern Mediterranean (P-4). The latter two regional sub-units would share another General Service post. Thus, total staffing requirements for the unit would comprise 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 2 P-4, 3 P-3, 2 P-2 and 6 General Service posts, or a total of 17. However, it is proposed that the filling of these posts be phased over the biennium; and that a total of only ten posts be encumbered in 1999 (1 D-1, 3 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3 and 3 General Service posts) while the remaining seven posts would be filled in the next biennium.

External relations

28. This unit would assist the Head of the Permanent Secretariat in ensuring necessary coordination with the secretariats of other relevant bodies, including in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Conventions on Biodiversity and on Climate Change. It would also assist Parties, on request, as well as non-governmental organizations, in promoting public awareness of the basis and objectives of the Convention. To this end, the unit within its resources, including those provided by the Supplementary Fund, would prepare and disseminate, to governmental and non-governmental institutions, relevant public information material. Of particular importance would be the unit's relations with, and support to, the activities of non-governmental organizations, especially in the field of implementation and public awareness. It is also proposed that the unit establish

and maintain a multi-media reference library to contain major relevant official documents and publications relating to desertification and sustainable development. This unit would comprise 4 posts (P-4, P-3, P-2 and 1 GS).

Administrative and systems support

29. It is expected that the organization embodying the institutional linkage will provide general administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat. Nevertheless, the Permanent Secretariat will still need to:

(a) prepare and submit biennial programme budget proposals for review and approval by the COP;

(b) administer and control the budget, once approved, and provide periodic reports thereon to the COP, as well as prepare regular internal reports for management and control purposes to the Head of the Permanent Secretariat and unit heads;

(c) administer, control and report on extrabudgetary funds and programmes;

(d) initiate recruitment action of staff, including temporary staff and consultants;

(e) manage and update systems, and provide systems support, in a highly computer-oriented secretariat;

(f) estimate meetings servicing requirements and ensure provision of those services, in liaison with the host organization to be determined;

(g) manage the travel programme; and

(h) initiate procurement action, and provide control, in respect of requirements for furniture, equipment, communications and other operating requirements.

30. It is envisaged that these functions would be undertaken by a unit headed by a P-5 and comprising, in addition, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, and 6 General Service posts.

Staffing Summary

31. The requirements set out in paragraphs 20 to 30 above provide for an estimated total, for 1999, of 34 posts (1 Head, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 6 P-5, 7 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 P-2 and 13 General Service). Seven additional posts (2 P-3, 2 P-2 and 3 General Service) would be filled at a later date.

The Permanent Secretariat: core requirements other than staffing

32. For the purpose of this outline, the estimated core requirements, other than staffing, are presented for the Permanent Secretariat as a whole. It is envisaged, however, that the final budget presentation to the COP will apportion these estimates among the main appropriation lines proposed.

33. In addition to staffing, provision for 1999 will need to be made under the following headings:

Overtime and temporary assistance for meetings

This is required in respect of temporary secretarial and clerical assistance during meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies and for overtime during those meetings.

General temporary assistance

This is proposed to cover approximately 15 work/months during workload peaks, generally preceding the meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.

Consultants

This would be required for review of scientific and technical material on specific aspects of the programme of work, and also to assist in the review of implementation. It would cover approximately 18 work/months of consultancies, including related travel.

Travel

This covers travel of staff for consultative missions with Governments and nongovernmental organizations; for missions required for the preparation of substantive reports to the COP and its subsidiary bodies; for participation in activities of specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations on issues of desertification and drought, and for providing assistance to developing countries in the implementation of the programme of urgent action on Africa.

General operating expenses, supplies and materials

This would cover communications, operation of computer systems, office furniture and other equipment, miscellaneous supplies and services and insurance, including internal provision for possible claims in respect of service-incurred injury or death.

Other expenditure items arising in respect of the core budget

Reimbursement to the host organization for administrative expenditures

34. In response to questions regarding the offers made by the United Nations and UNEP to provide overall administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat, both organizations have indicated that they would expect to levy a charge for provision of administrative support. In the case of the United Nations, the level of overhead charges would be determined on the basis of actual costs incurred. For its part, UNEP would cover the costs of providing services with a standard 13 per cent support charge. It seems likely, therefore, that the core budget (as well as the related special purpose funds) will need to include provision for this item; however, a precise estimate can be included only after the host organization has been more clearly identified.

The Working Capital Reserve

35. Rule 8 of the draft financial rules provides that within the General Fund "there shall be maintained a working capital reserve at a level to be determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties by consensus", and that "the purpose of the working capital reserve shall be to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash."

36. The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the level of the reserve which should be recommended to the COP for approval. In the case of the Climate Change Convention, the reserve was initially approved at the level of one month of estimated expenditure; this level will be reviewed at the end of 1997.

Possible offsets to the core budget

37. Requirements set out in paragraphs 14 to 33 above, which do not include the "overhead" charge nor the working capital reserve, would result in a total "core" expenditure in 1999. Offsets against this total may, however, arise as follows.

Contributions by the host Government

38. There will most likely be an offset in respect of special contributions by the host Government. The extent of such contributions will be known, however, only when the COP takes a decision on the physical location of the secretariat.

Allotments of overhead for administration

39. It might be possible - as has been the case with the Climate Change Convention - to negotiate, with the organization providing support services, for part of the charge in respect of reimbursement for administrative support (see paragraph 34 above) to be used to finance some posts in the administrative area of the Permanent Secretariat (referred to in paragraphs 29 and 30 above). It is however too early to provide an estimate for this eventuality.

B. Special purpose funds

The Supplementary Fund

40. It is envisaged that the Supplementary Fund would, in accordance with its proposed terms of reference, support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in meetings of the COP and subsidiary bodies; facilitate assistance to affected developing countries in communicating information; and support other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

41. It is too early, at this stage, to formulate a detailed cost plan for activities which are to start over two years after this document has been readied. Nevertheless, it is not unreasonable to assume that the level of activity funded from this fund will not be markedly different from that shown for 1996, and suggested for 1997, respectively in documents A/AC.241/69 and Add.1, which are also before the Committee at its tenth session. It should also be noted that the existing Trust Fund has been and is being used as a vehicle for provision by Governments of staff to contribute to the activities of the interim secretariat. It would be expected that this support would continue, in 1998 and later years, within the scope of the Supplementary Fund.

The Special Fund

42. The Special Fund would continue to finance the travel of one representative of each affected developing country, and of one further representative for each affected least developing country, to sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies. Estimated expenditures for each of the years 1996 and 1997, to finance travel to INCD meetings, amount to approximately $1,100,000. However, the fact that only one meeting would be envisaged in 1999 (the back-to-back session of the COP and its subsidiary bodies) should result in lower requirements under this heading.

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IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
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New York 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

REPORT ON A DRAFT PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In decision 9/11, adopted at its ninth session, the INCD invited interested INCD members to transmit to the Secretariat, by 15 October 1996, comments and views on a proposed programme of work for the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). The same decision requested the Secretariat to prepare and report on such a programme, based on comments and views received, for consideration at the Committee's tenth session.

2. As of 25 October 1996, the Secretariat had received comments and views from seventeen governments, as well as helpful inputs from three intergovernmental organizations.

3. The submissions received pointed to four substantive areas which could receive priority in the initial work programme of the CST. These areas are consistent with relevant articles of the Convention, with work underway in the INCD, and with the terms of reference for the CST that the INCD is recommending to the Conference of the Parties (COP). The following section of this note discusses these four areas. The last section provides some ideas on further development of the CST work programme.

4. In pursuing work in these or other areas, the CST will need to establish appropriate links with the scientific and technical advisory bodies of related conventions and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations undertaking work of potential interest to the CST. Document A/AC.241/67, which the Secretariat is presenting for consideration at the tenth session, deals with this important issue. It might also be appropriate for the CST to discuss it at its first session. In addition, the CST will need to oversee the maintenance of the roster of experts and the formation of ad hoc panels needed to facilitate its work. In adopting its programme of work, the CST is directed under paragraph 7 of its terms of reference to include estimates regarding its financial implications, which would include the costs of such panels.

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II. PROPOSED PRIORITY AREAS OF INITIAL CST WORK PROGRAMME

A. Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

5. Under article 25 of the Convention, the CST shall, under the supervision of the COP, provide for the undertaking of a survey and evaluation of relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network to support implementation of the Convention. The CST shall, on the basis of this survey and evaluation, recommend to the COP ways and means of facilitating and strengthening networking of the units to ensure that the thematic needs of articles 16-19 are addressed. These obligations are reinforced in identical language in the terms of reference of the CST.

6. This work by the CST would allow the COP to identify units most appropriate for networking, to recommend operational procedures and a time frame and to identify units best suited to facilitate and strengthen networking at all levels.

7. In its initial work programme the CST could carry out the survey and evaluation in three phases. Recognizing that a comprehensive survey of all relevant networks, institutions, agencies and bodies would be time consuming, the first phase could concentrate on identifying only the principal potential units, particularly existing networks. Since networking priorities would vary among regions and subregions, the second phase could then be a pilot, in-depth survey and evaluation of potential units in a particular region and subregion. In the third phase, this pilot survey and evaluation could be replicated in other regions and subregions. In all three phases, the units surveyed and evaluated would include governmental and intergovernmental organisations, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions and other private sector entities.

8. The first phase of the survey and evaluation could include the following components:

(a) identification of the main existing networks and their role in areas such as information collection and exchange, research, technology transfer, capacity building, policy formulation and local-level activities;

(b) mapping of the actual and potential components and categories of users of these networks and their geographical coverage;

(c) enumeration of the information needs of actual and potential users and the extent to which such needs are being met in relation to the provisions of articles 16-19 of the Convention;

(d) evaluation of the linkages among the main networks, including overlaps and gaps;

(e) elucidation of factors facilitating effective functioning of the main networks, as well as constraints to their effectiveness;

(f) elaboration of the purposes and benefits of strengthening networks at various levels; and

(g) recommendation of candidates for the pilot, in-depth survey and evaluation at the regional and subregional levels in the second phase.

9. The most practical way to carry out the first phase of the survey and evaluation would be to entrust it to an existing organization that is already an active participant in networks dealing with desertification and drought mitigation. The INCD could, after agreeing on terms of reference, ask a short list of such organizations to draw up costed proposals. On the basis of these proposals, the CST, during the first session of the Conference of the Parties, could then select the preferred candidate.

B. Benchmarks and indicators

10. Several provisions of the Convention highlight the importance of benchmarks and indicators in its implementation. For this reason, the INCD has asked the Secretariat to undertake preliminary work on this subject in collaboration with other competent institutions. Under paragraph 2 (b) (ii) of its terms of reference, the CST functions include the making of recommendations on pertinent, quantifiable, and verifiable indicators which might be used in connection with action programmes.

11. Benchmarks and indicators would, therefore, logically be a second priority area for the CST's initial work programme, which could take account of the need to contribute to appropriate capacity-building in developing countries. In this connection, the CST could ask the Permanent Secretariat to continue the work begun by the Interim Secretariat. It could also draw up the terms of reference for an ad hoc panel on this subject and make recommendations to the first session of the COP on its formation.

C. Inventories of traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices

12. A significant component of the bottom-up approach of the Convention is the protection, promotion and use of relevant traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices. As a basis for carrying out these obligations, the Parties undertake, in accordance with article 18 (2) (a) of the Convention to make inventories in this area, and disseminate the resulting information. The CST terms of reference also deal with this subject (paragraph 2).

13. Many affected developing countries will require assistance in drawing up such inventories. Action to facilitate their preparation would, therefore, be a third appropriate priority of the CST's initial work programme. It will also be important to have some consistency in the format and content of the inventories, both to make them comparable and to enhance their utilization in information exchange within subregions and regions, as well as globally. To further these ends, the CST could agree on terms of reference for an ad hoc panel to develop methodologies for preparing and disseminating the inventories, and then make appropriate recommendations to the first session of the COP on formation of the panel.

D. Establishment of research priorities

14. Article 17 of the Convention lays out the obligations of Parties regarding research, including the development and strengthening of research capabilities in affected developing countries and the promotion of joint research programmes. It also calls for the inclusion of research priorities in action programmes, which the COP is to review periodically on the advice of the CST. The CST terms of reference consequently provide that it should advise on possible research priorities and make recommendations regarding specialised research and for promoting cooperative and comparative research.

15. The Convention emphasizes a "demand-driven" approach to research that meets the specific needs of local population. Such an approach will require innovative methodologies for setting research priorities, so this would be an appropriate item for the CST work programme. In carrying out this function, the CST might benefit from the formation of an ad hoc panel, on which the CST could make appropriate recommendations to the COP.

III. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CST INITIAL WORK PROGRAMME

16. On the basis of discussion of the CST's initial work programme in Working Group II, the INCD could request the Secretariat, drawing as appropriate on this note, to present an annotated agenda for the CST's first session and to prepare the documentation the INCD decides is needed for the consideration of various items.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

REPORT ON THE WORK OF OTHER BODIES PERFORMING WORK SIMILAR TO THAT ENVISAGED FOR THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph (c) of its decision 9/11, the INCD requested the Interim Secretariat to identify bodies of other relevant organizations and conventions performing work similar to the work envisaged to be undertaken by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), and to report to the tenth session on such work and possible areas of cooperation with such bodies. The Secretariat accordingly corresponded with all easily identifiable bodies or organizations of potential interest and received positive responses from twenty-five of them. It also reviewed relevant available reference materials.

2. In preparing this report, the Secretariat divided "areas of cooperation" into two parts: substantive fields of potential cooperation and methods or means of cooperation. Part II of this report contains a general analysis of possible fields and means of cooperation consistently with relevant provisions of the Convention, as well as the terms of reference of the CST and its draft proposed programme of work in document A/AC.241/66. Part III then identifies bodies and organization with which the CST could cooperate and indicates substantive fields of cooperation with them. The Annex provides comparable profiles of the principal scientific and technical committees or panels of these organizations which would be the counterparts of the CST.

II. AREAS OF COOPERATION

A. Convention provisions

3. Article 8 of the Convention encourages coordination of activities carried out under the Convention and other relevant international agreements, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to derive maximum benefit from activities under each agreement while avoiding duplication of efforts.This article then points to some specific areas of cooperation, namely, joint programmes, particularly in the fields of research,training,systematic observation and information collection and exchange.

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4. In various other contexts, the Convention also refers to scientific and technical cooperation among the Parties in such fields as joint research programmes, information collection and dissemination, technology transfer, protection and utilization of traditional and local technology, the conservation of land and water resources and the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources. These are all fields where cooperation with other conventions and organizations could be fruitful for the Parties. In this connection, paragraph 10 of the proposed CST terms of reference, as contained in INCD decision 9/10, authorizes the CST to seek the cooperation of, and utilize the services of and information provided by, competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, intergovernmental or non-governmental. Under paragraph 2(c)(iii), the CST functions also include recommendations for promoting cooperative and comparative research between regions with different cultural and socio-economic circumstances.

5. The draft proposed programme of work for the CST suggests that the CST initially accords priority to the networking of institutions, agencies and bodies, in accordance with article 25 of the Convention; benchmarks and indicators; inventories of traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices; and the establishment of research priorities. These or other priority fields decided would be a logical focus for specific and practical initial cooperative efforts with other bodies and organizations, experience with which would shape long-term links and guide future cooperative activities. The proposed work programme also suggests that the CST discuss at its first session the establishment of appropriate links with relevant bodies and organizations. In fact, the topic of cooperation could well become a sanding item on the CST agenda.

B. Methods of cooperation

6. Coordination and cooperation among bodies and organizations allows the exercise of competence on the basis of comparative advantage of institutions. It also could enhance coordination of action programmes at all levels. Scientific and technical cooperation has already demonstrated significant positive potential in advancing the substantive agenda of international agreements of the Convention's type. To achieve such a potential, the CST could pursue under the policy guidance of the Conference of the Parties (COP), some of the following major methods of cooperation

(a) *Reciprocal participation in meetings.* In accordance with article 22, paragraph 7 of the Convention, observers from other bodies and organizations may, with the concurrence of the COP, be invited to CST sessions. Some might also be asked to present brief reports on their activities of interest. The CST could be similarly represented at sessions of counterpart scientific bodies by its Chairman, the head of the Permanent Secretariat or some other person the CST designates.

(b) *Exchange of information and networking.* Related conventions and organizations operate or participate in a wide variety of information exchange mechanisms, including networks, clearing houses, publications, databases and meetings. There is considerable scope for harmonizing such mechanisms with similar ones in the Convention's context. This would not only provide information useful to the Convention's implementation but would also avoid duplication of effort and reduce costs.

(c) *Harmonization of national programmes and reporting requirements.* There is growing concern about the proliferation and overlap of plans, programmes and reports required under environmental conventions, which strain the limited resources of developing countries. This points to the advantage of the CST encouraging and facilitating the harmonization of the scientific and technical aspects of related plans and programmes, as well as coordination of relevant reports among the national focal points of various conventions. There are already memoranda of understanding on these subjects among conventions concerned with biological diversity.

(d) *Jointly convened seminars/workshops and coordination meetings.* Under the guidance of the CST, the Permanent Secretariat could join the secretariats of related conventions and organizations in facilitating seminars and workshops on subjects of common interest, for example, the conservation and utilization of dryland biodiversity. The CST may also consider inviting observers from relevant conventions and institutions to present reports to the CST on their relevant activities. Conversely, the CST may wish to draw to the attention of those conventions and institutions decisions of the COP which are of particular relevance to their area of responsibility.

(e) *Cross-fertilization of rosters of experts.* As noted in the Annex, the scientific bodies of a number of related conventions and organizations maintain rosters of experts to assist them in their work. It would be useful to exchange and disseminate to Parties information on these rosters and, possibly, to integrate them in a common data base.

7. The Secretariat has already been working with some of the bodies and organizations identified below on matters of common scientific and technical interest. In particular, some of them participated in the work of the International Panel of Experts on Desertification that the General Assembly resolution 47/188 established to advise the Secretariat and the INCD during the negotiation process of the Convention. The Secretariat also, for example, has regularly attended meetings of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), has provided inputs to the work of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) related to land degradation, has worked with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Sahara/Sahel Observatory (OSS) on information exchange related to land degradation issues in Africa and has cooperated with a number of organizations to carry out INCD mandates on benchmarks and indicators. Moreover, the Secretariat participates in coordination meetings of environmental conventions, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

III. BODIES IDENTIFIED FOR COOPERATION PURPOSES

8. Numerous organizations and institutions, in both the public and the private sector, are carrying out scientific and technical work related to desertification. Many of the major ones corresponded with the Secretariat to show interest in cooperating with the CST and to describe their scientific activities. The following sections briefly identify the organizations concerned and indicate substantive fields of potential cooperation with the CST.

A. Scientific committees and panels

9. Most environmental conventions and several organizations have scientific committees and panels comparable in some ways to the CST. They would be among the CST's principal counterparts. The annex contains profiles of these bodies in a common format.

B. International organizations

10. International organizations working on desertification issues, including United Nations agencies and programmes, are playing an active role in the INCD process. These organizations can continue to be major partners in the CST's work programme. The interim secretariat received from such organizations the following information on substantive fields of possible cooperation over the long-term:

(a) *Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)*: networking of agencies, bodies and institutions in the context of ESCAP's role as the secretariat of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP).

11. (b) *Food and Agricultural Organization(FAO)*: collection, processing and interpretation of meteorological satellite and weather data in Africa; establishment of norms for monitoring land cover and land use changes; and enhanced use of fodder trees.

(c) *International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)*: comparability of research activities under ICRISAT's Desert Margin Initiative (DMI) with action programmes under the Convention; evaluation of traditional and local, soil, water, nutrient, vegetation and livestock management practices; identification of socio-economic constraints to improve management practices; development of improved and integrated management technologies to achieve greater productivity of crops, trees and animals; and facilitation of desertification networking of agencies and bodies.

(d) *International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)*: research and collaborative research networks for resource poor farmers; promotion of demand-driven technology development and diffusion systems; and establishment of participatory systems for monitoring community-based resource management, as well as small-scale soil and water management.

(e) *International Panel on Forests (IPF)*: monitoring of actions to support dryland afforestation, reforestation and restoration of forest ecosystems in the context of possible follow up to the IPF mandate due to end on 1997.

(f) *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)*: Club du Sahel participation in information exchange among African regional and subregional organizations, as well as in working groups on indicators, impact evaluation and financial aspects; and development, in Africa, of integrated information systems by using new information technologies (in collaboration with OSS and UNITAR).

(g) *Sahara/Sahel Observatory (OSS)*: development of integrated information systems and use of new information technologies in Africa; and networking of the Convention's national and subregional focal points in Africa.

(h) *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*: technological capacity building innovation and technology flows for integrated dryland management, particularly in the context of UNCTAD's role as the secretariat of both the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Commission for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

(i) *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*: indicator development, including indicators of the implementation process of the Convention's programmes; indicator development, including methods of assessing the desertification status at the national level; promotion of farmer innovations in water management in the drylands; development of new techniques for drought preparedness and mitigation; understanding of drylands' contribution to national economies as well as linkages between urban development and desertification; and networking between concerned actors.

(j) *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*: benchmarks and indicators; and scientific and technical aspects of portions related to desertification in UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and International Hydrological Programme (IHP).

(k) *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*: development of desertification assessment methodologies and land-quality indicators; amalgamation of modern and traditional scientific knowledge for sustainable use of dryland resources; networks for exchanging information; assessment of climate change impacts and responses in drylands; and diagnostic studies and research on transboundary water bodies.

(l) *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*: energy supply and energy saving measures in refugee camps in desertified areas.

(m) *United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)*:training programmes at the local level on the scientific and technical aspects of the Convention; development, in Africa, of integrated information systems by using new information technologies; and networking of the Convention's national focal points and subregional organizations in Africa.

(n) *World Health Organization (WHO)*: health ramifications of desertification and drought, particularly, as they relate to migration and water quality in desertified or dryland areas.

C. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)

12. A number of the NGOs carry out scientific and technical activities. It was not possible to correspond with many of them but several provided the information below on substantive fields of interface between their activities and the work of the CST.

(a) *International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU)*: research on dryland agricultural systems and land management practices.

(b) *International Society of Soil Science (ISSS)*: research, information exchange and indicators on dryland soils in the context of work of the ISSS Commission on Soils and the Environment.

(c) *World Conservation Union (IUCN)*: research and information exchange related to conservation and utilization of dryland biodiversity, including in the context of work of IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management.

(d) *World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)*: information exchange on dryland forests and wetlands in deserts or dryland areas or areas threatened by desertification.

ANNEX

PROFILES OF RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL BODIES

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

NAME OF BODIES/ACRONYM:	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA); Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)
PARENT ORGANIZATION:	Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)
LEGAL AUTHORITY:	FCCC, Article 9 (SBSTA) and 10 (SBI); COPI, Decision 6/CP.1
PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS:	SBSTA: (a) provides liaison between scientific assessments and policy needs of the FCCC; (b) provides advice on policy implications of knowledge on climate change and its effects, by reviewing implications of scientific, technical and socio-economic information; (c) prepares guidelines for national communications, and for reporting on activities implemented jointly, including on methodological issues; (d) identifies relevant technologies, and advises on promoting their development and/or transfer; (e) advises on scientific programmes, on international cooperation in relevant research and on support for capacity building in developing countries SBI: considers information based on, inter alia, national communications to assess the implementation of commitments and the effect of steps taken by the Parties to reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere
POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH CST:	Stabilization, within an appropriate time frame, of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere that would represent dangerous anthropogenic interference, including emissions from desertification activities; development of indicators of climate change and their significance for desertification, and vice-versa; cooperation in areas of technology development, deployment and transfer; cooperation and programmes in areas of scientific research and systematic observation
ROSTER OF EXPERTS:	Yes

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

NAME OF BODY/ACRONYM:	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)
PARENT ORGANIZATION:	Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
LEGAL AUTHORITY:	CBD, Article 25 and relevant decisions of the COP, in particular, decision II-1*
PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS:	Provides scientific and technical assessments of the status of biological diversity and effects of types of measures taken under the CBD; identifies relevant innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how; provides advice on relevant scientific programmes and international cooperation in research and development related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH CST:	Conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity in drylands; fair and equitable sharing of the benefits resulting from the utilization of dryland genetic resources; development of indicators of biological diversity and their significance for desertification, and vice-versa; cooperation in research and development related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the drylands
ROSTER OF EXPERTS:	Yes (only for marine and coastal resources)

* At the time of preparing this table additional decisions were expected from COP III, held on 4 - 15 November 1996 in Buenos Aires

GLOBAL AND ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

NAME OF BODY/ACRONYM:	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)
PARENT ORGANIZATION:	Council of Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
LEGAL AUTHORITY:	Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF
PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS:	Provides objective, strategic scientific and technical advice on GEF policies, operational strategies and programmes; conducts selective reviews of projects in certain circumstances; interacts in a complementary manner with relevant scientific and technical bodies including potentially with the CST of the Convention to Combat Desertification; advises on the development of scientific and technical criteria, as well as on scientific and technical advice regarding priorities for GEF funding
POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH CST:	Interrelations of desertification and drought issues with those of climate change, biological diversity and international waters; choice of indicators to measure project impact in these focal areas as they relate to desertification.
ROSTER OF EXPERTS:	Yes

INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

NAME OF BODY/ACRONYM:	International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
PARENT ORGANIZATIONS:	World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
LEGAL AUTHORITY:	WMO Executive Council and UNEP Governing Council resolutions and decisions
PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS:	Assesses on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the risk of human induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation
POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH CST:	Interrelation of drought and desertification with greenhouse gas emissions and sinks, as well as mitigation of climate change and adaptation to it
ROSTER OF EXPERTS:	Yes

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

NAME OF BODY/ACRONYM:	Hydrology Commission (CHy), Agricultural Meteorology Commission (CAgM), Climatology Commission (CCL)
PARENT ORGANIZATION:	World Meteorological Congress
LEGAL AUTHORITY:	World Meteorological Convention
PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS:	CHy does studies on water balance, hydrology assessments, global hydrological cycle and hydrological forecasting; CAgM develops agrometeorological services, including meteorological aspects of desertification and drought; CCL studies climate and its effect on human activities and application of meteorological information for sustainable development
POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH CST:	Studies of water balance; assessments of the global hydrological cycle and hydrological forecasting; development of agrometeorological services; drought preparedness and management including contingency plans; use of agrometeorological data in food security systems; capacity building for assessment and systematic observation of meteorological data; promotion of use of meteorological data and information for preventive measures to avoid land degradation; transfer of knowledge and technology via training on drought management and desertification; research and development on causes and effects of drought and desertification
ROSTER OF EXPERTS:	Yes

RAMSAR CONVENTION

NAME OF BODY/ACRONYM:	Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)
PARENT ORGANIZATION:	Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Convention on Wetlands, Ramsar Convention)
LEGAL AUTHORITY:	Ramsar Convention; COP5, Resolution C.5.5 and COP6, Resolution VI.7
PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS:	Provides scientific and technical assistance to the Bureau and Standing Committee and, through them, to the COP (Tasks are entrusted on an annual basis and include: identification of priorities for the application of monitoring procedures and evaluation of the application of guidelines for the implementation of the "wise use" concept; evaluation of the application of the "Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites"; definition of ecological character and guidelines on monitoring change in it)
POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH CST:	Wetlands in drylands management planning taking into account Ramsar Strategic Plan for 1997-2002
ROSTER OF EXPERTS:	Yes

BONN CONVENTION

NAME OF BODY/ACRONYM:	Scientific Council
PARENT ORGANIZATION:	Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention, "CMS")
LEGAL AUTHORITY:	Bonn Convention, Article VIII, COP IV, Resolution 4.5
PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS:	Provides overall advice on scientific matters to COP and joint agreed activities
POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH THE CST:	Specific conservation and management measures for migratory species in dryland areas through eg. an agreement on Sahel-Saharan ungulates; selection and monitoring of small scale pilot projects to promote implementation in areas of interest to both CMS and the Convention; coordination of research on migratory species to ascertain the conservation status of migratory species in drylands
ROSTER OF EXPERTS:	The COP appoints experts to meetings of the Scientific Council

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The following corrections are made to the English text of document A/AC.241/67:

1. In the last sentence of paragraph 5 on page 2, the word "sanding" is to be replaced by "standing".

2. At the beginning of page 4 the number 11. is to be deleted and paragraph 12. on page 5 is to be renumbered as paragraph 11.

3. In sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph 11. (formerly the paragraph numbered 12.), the word "Wildlife" is to be replaced by "Wide".

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